

# THE MILITANT

60TH ANNIVERSARY

October 1962 'Missile' Crisis:  
Cuban toilers beat back US threats  
— PAGE 4

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 86/NO. 41 NOVEMBER 7, 2022

## Vote Socialist Workers Party, back working class struggles!

BY TERRY EVANS

With early voting already underway, both Democrats and Republicans claim the midterm elections are the most important in decades. The bosses' two main parties are laser focused on factional battles against each other. Whichever party controls the House and Senate after Nov. 8 will rule for the bosses, who are stepping up their drive to offload the crisis of their capitalist system on workers' backs.

More and more workers today confront threats to our jobs, wages that fail to match soaring prices, declining access to health care, grueling and arbitrary schedules, unsafe conditions on the job and other attacks. More workers are looking for ways to organize and use unions to resist.

At the same time, the White House and fellow Democrats have unleashed the FBI, the rulers' political police, against Donald Trump and others, including supporters of Cuba's revolution in Puerto Rico and the African People's Socialist Party. They are dealing serious blows to constitutional freedoms needed

Continued on page 7

## Iran protests expand, win support, challenge regime

Workers' strikes add momentum to the protests



Huge crowd Oct. 26 at cemetery in Saqqez, Kurdish region of Iran, hometown of Mahsa Amini, 40 days since her death in the hands of Tehran's "morality" police. Protests keep growing.

BY SETH GALINSKY

Teachers across Iran joined three days of mourning and then held "sit-ins" at elementary and high schools across the country Oct. 23 and 24 in response to the call by the Coordinating Council of Iranian Teachers Trade Union Associations "to protest the sys-

tematic suppression of teachers, students and the noble people of Iran."

Tens of thousands of university and high school students have been stepping up their protests. Shopkeepers, especially in the Kurdish region, shut their doors in solidarity. Inspired by the movement and strengthening it, workers at more factories are going on strike to press their own demands.

The protests began after the Sept. 16 death of Mahsa Amini. The young woman, whose real Kurdish name was Jina, was visiting Tehran. She died three days after she collapsed following her arrest by the "morality" police for allegedly not strictly hewing to the obligatory

Continued on page 6

## Ukraine pushes Moscow back, defending its independence!

BY ROY LANDERSEN

Eight months into its invasion of Ukraine, Moscow is resorting to the systematic bombing of civilian areas of Ukraine's major cities and the destruction of vital infrastructure, as a Ukrainian counteroffensive threatens to retake the city of Kherson in the south. Russian President Vladimir Putin's drone and missile bombardment has only strengthened the resolve of the Ukrainian people to defend their independence and defeat the invasion.

"Every bomb does the opposite of what they want. We only become more united," Raisa Yuriyvna, a Ukrainian pensioner whose mother is Russian, told the *Financial Times*.

Moscow's missile and drone strikes have been aimed at crippling Ukraine's electricity, water and gas supplies, affecting millions of civilians as winter approaches. Despite Ukrainian defenses downing many missiles and drones, those that hit their targets caused black-

Continued on page 9

## Rail workers protest, debate road forward to defeat bosses' attacks



BMW Lodge 0695 members win support for fight for paid sick days outside Oct. 23 Baltimore Ravens game. One woman going by responded, "Everyone deserves sick days, everyone!"

BY JOE SWANSON

LINCOLN, Neb. — The big railroad bosses and their well-heeled capitalist investors are determined to keep their profits high at the expense of the lives and safety of the very workers who do all the work. Over 100,000 rail workers in 12 unions are locked in a contract battle with a coalition of rail bosses — heads of five of the nation's Class 1 railroads and a couple dozen smaller lines

negotiating together as the National Carriers' Conference Committee.

The workers have faced years of a concerted assault by the employers. They've cut the size of crews, eliminated jobs, contracted out railroad repair work, worsened schedules, refused to grant paid sick time off and more, all backed by the federal government and mountains of red tape and anti-strike

Continued on page 7

## Attacks on 'right to life' clinics threaten fight for women's emancipation

BY VIVIAN SAHNER

Since the May 2 leak of the U.S. Supreme Court's draft opinion holding *Roe v. Wade* as unconstitutional, there have been at least 70 violent attacks directed against crisis pregnancy centers and offices of groups opposed to decriminalizing abortion.

The pregnancy centers counsel against abortion while providing medical care and baby supplies to women with unexpected pregnancies. Mobs of masked vandals have set fires, smashed windows and plastered buildings with messages like "fake clinic" and "liars."

These attacks are dangerous blows to key constitutional freedoms and need to be strongly opposed.

Continued on page 6

## Help spread the word about the SWP campaign!

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

With elections less than two weeks away, Socialist Workers Party candidates and campaign supporters are stepping up efforts to reach working people with the party's program. Campaigners are bringing solidarity to strike picket lines, talking to workers and farmers door to door in cities and rural areas, and joining protest actions supporting the widespread demonstrations in Iran, in defense of Ukraine's independence, and more. Through these efforts, they're winning support, signing up subscribers to the *Militant* and introducing books by SWP and other working-class leaders that offer a revolutionary road forward for working people.

Continued on page 3

## Inside

Protests demand Australia grant visas to 1,000s of asylum-seekers 2

Meeting discusses political legacy of Thomas Sankara 2

—On the picket line, p. 5—

Corn Nuts strikers stick together, win contract

Strikers demand higher pay at two refineries in France



Protests demand Australia grant visas to 1,000s of asylum-seekers

BY BOB AIKEN

SYDNEY — A protest set for Nov. 6 here will challenge the Australian Labor Party government’s failure to carry out a promise to grant permanent visas to thousands of asylum-seekers. For years they have been barred by successive governments from settling in Australia.

The demonstration was called by supporters of the rights of refugees, including many who themselves spent years in the Australian government’s immigration detention centers. It follows a national protest of 1,500 in Canberra, the capital, Sept. 6 and several hundred in Sydney Sept. 18.

A U.N. mission to investigate charges of torture in Australia was suspended Oct. 23 after being denied access to jails and detention facilities in the states of Queensland and New South Wales. Rights groups have constantly cited abuses against Indigenous and refugee detainees across Australia.

Thirty thousand refugees live in Australia on various temporary visas, which block their ability to work, study or reunite with family. More than 19,000 are on “temporary protection” or “safe haven enterprise” visas, which the government has promised to end. Another 10,000, whose cases the government doesn’t plan to review, have been refused permanent residency and live under continual threat of deportation.

Since its election in May, the Labor Party government has continued to “turn back” refugee boats headed to Australia. As many of the asylum-seekers are from crisis-ridden Sri Lanka, Canberra seeks its government’s cooperation in helping the Australian navy

intercept these boats.

At a meeting here called by the Refugee Action Coalition Oct. 10, Sri Lankan refugee Thanush Selvarasa explained, “We need a permanent solution to start a new life.” He is currently on a temporary “bridging” visa, which has to be renewed every six months, making it “hard to find a job.” And it means Selvarasa “can’t study, or travel overseas” to visit his family.

He spent seven years in the Australian immigration detention center on Manus Island in Papua New Guinea before being evacuated to Australia for medical treatment. He was imprisoned at the Park Hotel in Melbourne, one of several the Australian government used to detain hundreds of refugees, before they were finally granted a bridging visa.

Selvarasa said people on these visas were getting letters from the immigration department demanding that they be ready to leave the country on a few days’ notice. While these letters were withdrawn after protests, it shows the



Al Jazeera/Zoe Osborne

Some 1,500 people rally in Canberra, Australia, Sept. 6 demanding the ruling Labor Party government carry out its promise to grant permanent visas to thousands of asylum-seekers.

uncertainty they face.

Roghieh, a 66-year-old Iranian woman, said some refugees were being pressured to agree to resettle in the U.S., Canada or New Zealand.

During the discussion a young woman, Aylin, explained that she had been imprisoned in the Australian detention center on the Pacific islands nation of

Nauru at the age of 12 when her mother sought asylum from Iran. She was allowed to come to Australia when she turned 18, but was put under a “community detention” visa that blocks her from working or studying. She gets 180 Australian dollars (\$113) every two weeks from the government to live on, she said, barely a tenth of the minimum wage.

Meeting discusses political legacy of Thomas Sankara

BY ARLENE RUBINSTEIN

WASHINGTON — Some 30 people, many originally from Africa, came together here Oct. 17 to discuss the political legacy of Thomas Sankara, the central leader of the 1983-87 revolution in Burkina Faso and the country’s president. This is the 35th anniversary of his assassination in a counterrevolutionary coup.

“What was accomplished by Sankara and his comrades in four years was a rev-

olution, to answer the basic needs of its people for water, basic sanitation, food, for self-reliant development. He looked to the Cuban Revolution as his model. This is why he had to be stopped,” said Aziz Salome Fall, welcoming participants to the meeting held at Howard University. Fall is coordinator of the International Campaign for Justice for Sankara. Along with Sankara’s family, he has been campaigning for decades to keep Sankara’s ideas alive and to bring his assassins to trial.

In 1983, Sankara led a mass uprising that established a popular and democratic revolutionary government. With his leadership, workers and peasants began to use their new state power to fight hunger, disease, illiteracy and economic backwardness imposed by imperialism in the former French colony, one of the poorest countries in the world. The revolutionary government carried out campaigns to draw women into social and political life, increas-

ing their self-confidence. Three million children were vaccinated against common diseases. A far-reaching literacy campaign was organized.

Sankara spoke on behalf of the oppressed and exploited worldwide and stood out among the leaders of struggles for national liberation in Africa because he was a communist.

Acting on the interests of the enemies of the revolution — the propertied classes of Africa, and the world’s capitalist powers, above all imperialist France — Blaise Compaore, who had participated in the revolution and served as minister of justice, led a military coup and organized Sankara’s murder on Oct. 15, 1987. In a victory for Sankara’s legacy, a military court in Burkina Faso found Compaore and a handful of his collaborators guilty of Sankara’s death on April 6. Compaore, who lives in exile in neighboring Ivory Coast, was tried in absentia.

Continued on page 5

THE MILITANT

No worker has to die on the job!

Forty-one Turkish miners died Oct. 14 because of bosses’ greed. The state-owned coal mine bosses ignored the smell of gas for 10 days before the explosion. The ‘Militant’ backs efforts of workers to organize, unionize and use union power to fight for control of safety and production.

Reuters/Kemal Asian

Funeral for one of 41 miners killed Oct. 14 in Amasra, Turkey. Bosses ignored gas leak.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

NEW READERS

☐ \$5 for 12 issues

RENEWAL

☐ \$10 for 12 weeks

☐ \$20 for 6 months

☐ \$35 for 1 year

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

PHONE

E-MAIL

UNION/SCHOOL/ORGANIZATION

CLIP AND MAIL TO THE MILITANT, 306 W. 37TH ST., 13TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10018. OR SUBSCRIBE ONLINE AT: WWW.THEMILITANT.COM

12 weeks of the Militant outside the U.S.: Australia, A\$10 • United Kingdom, £4 • Canada, Can\$7 • Caribbean and Latin America, US\$10 • Continental Europe, £8 • France, 8 euros • New Zealand and the Pacific Islands, A\$10 • All other areas, US\$16 (Send payment to addresses listed in business information box)

The Militant

Vol. 86/No. 41

Closing news date: October 26, 2022

Editor: John Studer

Managing Editor: Terry Evans

Editorial volunteers: Róger Calero, Seth Galsinsky, Emma Johnson, Martín Koppel, Roy Landersen, Jacob Perasso, Brian Williams.

Published weekly except for one week in January, two weeks in August, one week in September.

Business Manager: Bob Bruce

The Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018. Telephone: (212) 244-4899 Fax: (212) 244-4947 E-mail: themilitant@mac.com Website: www.themilitant.com

Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018. Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: United States: For one year send \$35 to above address.

Latin America, Caribbean: For one year send \$85 drawn on a U.S. bank to above address.

Africa, Asia, and the Middle East: For one year send \$85 drawn on a U.S. bank to above address.

Canada: For one year send Canadian \$45 to the Militant, 7107 St. Denis #204, Montreal, Quebec H2S 2S5.

United Kingdom: Send £30 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London, 5 Norman Road (first floor), Seven Sisters, London, N15 4ND, England.

Republic of Ireland and Continental Europe: Send £85 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London at above address.

France: Send 100 euros for one year to Diffusion du Militant, BP 10130, 75723 Paris Cedex 15.

Australia: Send A\$70 for one year to P.O. Box 73 Campsie, NSW 2194 Australia.

New Zealand and the Pacific Islands: Send A\$70 for one year to above address.

Submissions to the Militant may be published in the newspaper in print and digital format. By submitting, authors represent that their submissions are original and consent to publication in this manner.

Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the Militant’s views. These are expressed in editorials.



# Spread word of SWP campaign

Continued from front page

In Philadelphia, Chris Hoeppe, SWP candidate for Congress, was interviewed Oct. 20 on WWDB-AM talk radio. “I explained that the biggest political question facing working people is the attack on our constitutional rights by the Joseph Biden administration and other liberal Democrats,” he told the *Militant*. “This is an attack not just against Trump, but on the entire working class.”

Hoeppe also pointed to the breakdown of the family. In Philadelphia 50% are headed by single parents. This is a product of the social, economic and moral crisis of the capitalist system. The half-hour interview is posted on PennsylvaniaProject.com as episode 186.

On Oct. 22, Sara Lobman, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate from New York, traveled to Boston to campaign with supporters there. In discussions with workers at their doorsteps, the nationwide contract fight by rail workers was of particular interest, as well as workers need to use union power to advance our interests in the U.S. and worldwide.

Lobman spoke that evening at a meeting hosted by campaign supporters. Participants included students and members of the Platypus Affiliated Society from the University of New Hampshire and Boston College, and a young electrician apprentice member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. During the day five *Militant* subscriptions and 11 books were sold.

### Rallies back Iran protesters

In Texas, SWP members joined an Oct. 22 rally in Dallas of over 500 people, overwhelmingly Iranians, in solidarity with the protests sweeping Iran in the wake of the death of Mahsa Amini. Alyson Kennedy, the party’s candidate for Texas governor, and Gerardo Sánchez, SWP candidate for Congress, met Ali Ghanbari, who told them he fought in the 1979

Iranian Revolution that overthrew the U.S.-backed shah. “The SWP is a working-class party that has a revolutionary perspective,” Kennedy said. “We supported that powerful uprising, and co-thinkers of our party there took part in it.” Ghanbari subscribed to the *Militant* and bought *Labor, Nature, and the Evolution of Humanity*.

“The problems working people face in the U.S. are a result of the capitalist system that is supported by both the Democratic and Republican parties,” Sánchez said. “We’re for our unions fighting for a shorter workweek with no cut in pay and cost-of-living increases in union contracts as protections against inflation.” Ghanbari introduced the two party candidates to a friend who bought some books and gave a contribution to the SWP Party-Building Fund.

The annual SWP Party-Building Fund has a goal of raising \$140,000 for the SWP’s work. The party depends on contributions from workers and farmers to finance its activities. In addition to party members and supporters, and readers of the *Militant*, many workers who are introduced to the SWP during the campaign on their doorsteps and at protest actions kick in to the fund. “We have succeeded in winning several first-time contributions,” reports Naomi Craine from Chicago.

In Los Angeles, campaign supporters have participated in several rallies and marches in solidarity with the protests in Iran. “We have set up tables with books in English and Farsi and have had broad discussions on politics in Iran, the



Militant/Bernie Senter

Deborah Liatos, right, SWP candidate for U.S. Congress, talks with people at rally of thousands in Los Angeles Oct. 1 protesting death of Mahsa Amini in Iran after arrest by “morality” police.

U.S., Ukraine, Cuba and international politics, presenting the party’s working-class course in approaching all of these questions,” said Deborah Liatos, who has attended a number of the actions there. She is the party’s candidate for Congress in California’s 37th District. At these rallies, 18 *Militant* subscriptions have been sold and 30 Pathfinder books — 18 of them in Farsi.

In London, reports Dag Tirsén, at a similar rally “about 1,500 gathered in Trafalgar Square on Oct. 22. Our book table was crowded even before we had the books up. Many people wanted to talk.” Communist League members participating in the action there sold 16 books, 15 single copies of the *Militant* and one subscription.

The eight-week drive, which runs through Nov. 15, aims to get 1,350

*Militant* subscriptions and to sell an equal number of books by revolutionary leaders. All Pathfinder titles can be purchased at a 20% discount during the course of this campaign.

To join in, contact the SWP or Communist League branch nearest you, listed on page 8.

**Donate your California gas-tax rebate to the Militant!**

The California government is issuing payouts to state residents to “provide relief” from high gas prices. Put it to good use! Send it to the *Militant* to help us keep getting out the truth about the capitalist crisis and the road forward for working people. Mail checks to the *Militant*, 306 W. 37th St., 13th floor, New York, NY 10018 or donate online at themilitant.com

## San Bernadino Amazon workers fight for a raise

BY LAURA GARZA

SAN BERNADINO, Calif. — “We want safety, no retaliation,” several hundred community members and unionists chanted, joining over 100 workers from Amazon’s largest air freight facility on the West Coast, called KSBD Oct. 14. They carried signs saying, “Prime shoppers beware, Amazon is unfair.”

“We’re tired of unfair labor practices,” said Larry Thronson, who loads gaylords at the facility. More than 150 workers walked off the job in August because of extreme heat and also demanded a raise. Workers took temperatures at the facility during a heat wave in early September and recorded temperatures of up to 96 inside cargo planes and tractor trailers and 121 on the tarmac. “We have to fight to get normal heat breaks, people have been taken out of here in an ambulance,” Thronson said. “We need extra heat breaks for 10 minutes when it gets hot, but the company doesn’t tell you you’re entitled to that.”

Workers walked out of the facility during their lunch break and joined picketing outside two entrances. They said most

workers on the shift sported stickers demanding a \$5 an hour raise.

Ramp worker Antonio Yanes started at \$17 an hour. “You can’t pay rents in this area on what they pay you,” he said at the protest. “I can’t afford a place to live.”

Yanes and his family moved in with his in-laws several years ago because they couldn’t afford a large rent hike. Quarters are cramped. While his son has a room, his wife sleeps on the couch and he sleeps in a van outside.

In the wake of organizing and protests demanding higher pay at the facility, which has been open since March 2021, Amazon raised pay \$1 an hour. But workers say it isn’t

enough and are demanding a \$5 an hour raise, to \$22.

Sara Fee told protesters, “We want a living wage. We have to make hard choices, gas or food. They gave us a \$1 an hour raise and we didn’t even see the difference in our checks, they took out more for benefits.” The workers are organized in the Inland Empire Amazon Workers United, and the Warehouse Workers Resource Center helped organized the event.

Members of Teamster Locals 1932 and 63, of United Food and Commercial Workers Locals 1167 and 1428, Local 105 of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail Transportation (SMART), and others joined the protest.

**Campaign to expand reach of ‘Militant,’ books, SWP fund**

**Sept. 17 - November 15 (week five)**

Country	Sub quota	Subs sold	Books quota	Books sold	Fund quota	Fund received
UNITED STATES						
Atlanta	75	39	75	29	\$9,600	\$2,163
Chicago	110	64	110	57	\$14,000	\$3,850
Cincinnati	70	30	70	19	\$6,000	\$1,783
Dallas-FortWorth	65	43	65	42	\$5,000	\$1,845
Lincoln	15	12	15	13	\$500	\$300
Los Angeles	90	50	90	78	\$15,250	\$2,704
Miami	45	12	45	13	\$5,750	\$2,393
Minneapolis	70	46	70	56	\$5,500	\$1,629
N. New Jersey	70	48	70	57	\$7,500	\$5,411
New York	115	62	115	78	\$21,000	\$5,717
Oakland	90	67	90	68	\$15,500	\$8,959
Philadelphia	50	29	50	31	\$6,000	\$1,850
Pittsburgh	65	37	65	19	\$6,000	\$1,293
Seattle	75	46	75	32	\$14,500	\$5,157
Washington	50	28	50	39	\$4,600	\$2,040
Other		11		89		\$750
Total U.S.	1055	624	1055	720	\$136,700	\$47,844
Prisoners	50	58				
UNITED KINGDOM						
London	40	28	40	39		
Manchester	40	22	40	14		
Total U.K.	80	50	80	53		
Canada	80	50	80	59		
Australia	30	19	30	23		
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,295</b>	<b>801</b>	<b>1,245</b>	<b>855</b>	<b>\$136,700</b>	<b>\$47,844</b>
<b>SHOULD BE</b>	<b>1,350</b>	<b>844</b>	<b>1,350</b>	<b>844</b>	<b>\$140,000</b>	<b>\$87,500</b>

**Socialist Workers Party 2022 candidates**

**California**  
Eleanor García, US Senate  
Joel Britton, Governor  
Deborah Liatos, US Congress

**Florida**  
Rachele Fruit, Governor  
Steve Warshell, US Senate

**Georgia**  
Lisa Potash, US Senate  
Sam Manuel, Governor

**Illinois**  
Naomi Craine, Governor

**Minnesota**  
Gabrielle Prosser, Governor  
Kevin Dwire, Lt. Governor

**Nebraska**  
Joe Swanson, US Congress

**New Jersey**  
Joanne Kuniansky, US Congress  
Lea Sherman, US Congress

**New York**  
Sara Lobman, US Senate  
Willie Cotton, Governor

**Ohio**  
Samir Hazboun, US Senate  
Jacquie Henderson, US Congress

**Pennsylvania**  
Osborne Hart, US Senate  
Candace Wagner, Governor  
Chris Hoeppe, US Congress

**Texas**  
Alyson Kennedy, Governor  
Gerardo Sánchez, US Congress

**Washington, DC**  
James Harris, Mayor  
Arlene Rubinstein, Delegate to House

**Washington**  
Henry Dennison, US Senate



# 1962 ‘Missile’ Crisis: Cuban toilers beat back US threats

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Sixty years ago the U.S. rulers pushed the world to the brink of nuclear war in what is widely known as the Cuban Missile Crisis. Many books have been written presenting Washington’s and Moscow’s point of view on what occurred. But to get the facts from the viewpoint of the Cuban people you need to read *October 1962: The ‘Missile’ Crisis as Seen from Cuba* by Tomás Diez Acosta. He participated in the general mobilization of Cuba’s Revolutionary Armed Forces at the time.

Just days after Cuba’s armed forces, national militia and revolutionary police inflicted a massive defeat on 1,500 U.S.-backed mercenaries in less than 72 hours at the Bay of Pigs on April 19, 1961, Washington prepared further steps to overthrow Cuba’s revolutionary government by direct military action.

In May 1961 the CIA launched “Operation Patty,” putting in place plans to assassinate Fidel and Raúl Castro. It included carrying out a fake attack against the U.S.-occupied naval base at Guantánamo, aiming to provoke a confrontation.

Several months later the John F. Kennedy administration launched “Operation Mongoose.” This involved plans for sabotage, subversion and large-scale preparations for U.S. military intervention.

Under these conditions the Cuban government accepted a Soviet proposal for a defense pact between the two countries in July 1962, including the deployment of Soviet missiles in Cuba and some 42,000 Soviet troops. At the time the USSR was being ringed by U.S. strategic nuclear weapons, including nuclear-equipped Jupiter missiles in Turkey.

Fidel Castro argued that the installation of missiles in Cuba should be preceded by a public treaty. But Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev rejected this, insisting on doing it secretly.

When U.S. spy planes recognized the missile sites under construction in mid-October 1962, Washington imposed a naval blockade of Cuba.

But the mobilization, determination and discipline of Cuba’s working people held off an impending U.S. invasion. On Oct. 26, at the height of the crisis, Kennedy asked the Pentagon for an estimate of the U.S. casualties that would result if he sent U.S. forces into Cuba. The Joint

Chiefs of Staff informed him to expect 18,500 casualties in the first 10 days alone. Kennedy concluded the political price was too high and held off any direct U.S. military attack.

Two days later Khrushchev told Kennedy he had ordered the removal of missiles from Cuba. The Cuban leadership only learned about this from a news report on Radio Moscow.

Washington then demanded the Cuban government accept “inspectors” to “verify” if the missiles had been withdrawn. Fidel Castro unequivocally rejected the request. “We have not surrendered nor do we intend to surrender any of our sovereign prerogatives to the Congress of the United States,” he told U.N. Secretary-General U Thant.

When asked in a 1992 NBC interview if he would accept the missiles if he had it to do so again, Castro said that knowing what he knows now of the Soviet handling of events, he would not.

At a Soviet-U.S.-Cuban conference on the missile crisis held in January 1992, Castro commented on Khrushchev’s demands. “We were not too pleased with the missiles, actually. If it had been a matter only of our own defense, we would not have accepted the emplacement of the missiles here.” He added, “because this would damage the image of the revolution. ... The presence of the missiles would in fact turn us into a Soviet military base and that had a high political cost.”

## Castro slandered as nuclear terrorist

The U.S. media continues to push the slander that Castro urged the Soviet Union to attack the U.S. with nuclear weapons. An Oct. 16 NPR article this year claimed Castro, “had written a letter to Khrushchev urging him to launch a preemptive nuclear strike.”

Thirty years ago this lie was featured in an Oct. 23, 1992, op-ed col-



Above, Prensa Latina; inset, Granma. Demonstrations broke out across U.S. and worldwide after Kennedy administration’s announcement of naval blockade against Cuba’s socialist revolution, which took world to brink of nuclear war. Above, protest outside United Nations in New York against threat of Washington invasion of Cuba. Inset, Cuban militia members prepare to defend their revolution arms in hand. Slogan on truck door says, “Standing firm with Fidel.”

umn in the *New York Times* by Fedor Burlatsky, one of Khrushchev’s advisers. Five days later Socialist Workers Party leader Mary-Alice Waters wrote a letter to the *Times* to refute this. The paper refused to print it, but the *Militant* did, in its Dec. 18, 1992, issue.

“Fedor Burlatsky quotes Fidel Castro as writing in a cable to Nikita Khrushchev during the October 1962 missile crisis that ‘I propose the immediate launching of a nuclear strike on the United States,’” Waters writes. “But neither the supposed quotation nor the *Times*’s rather eye-catching headline — ‘Castro Wanted a Nuclear Strike’ — squares with well-documented facts. The Cuban government itself published the relevant correspondence between Castro and Khrushchev almost two years ago. No document contains sentences Burlatsky ‘quotes,’ not any even resembling them.”

Castro sent a cable to Khrushchev on Oct. 26, saying, if “the imperialists in-

vade Cuba with the goal of occupying it, the danger that that aggressive policy poses for humanity is so great that following that event the Soviet Union must never allow the circumstances in which the imperialists could launch the first nuclear strike against it.” (Emphasis added by Waters.)

Castro wrote again Oct. 31, Waters notes. “I did not suggest to you, Comrade Khrushchev, that the USSR should be the aggressor,” he said, “because that would be more than incorrect. It would be immoral and contemptible on my part.”

Sixty years later, the refusal of the Cuban people, led by their revolutionary government, to submit to the U.S. rulers’ demands remains a powerful example. They worked resolutely to defend Cuba’s sovereignty and pushed Washington back from the brink. All this and more is documented in Diez Acosta’s book.

## Join protests to oppose US economic war on Cuba!

BY SETH GALINSKY

Demonstrations and other activities will take place in more than a dozen cities across the U.S., Canada and the U.K. from Oct. 28 to Nov. 3 calling for the end to Washington’s more than 60-year-long economic war on Cuba.

The actions lead up to the Nov. 2-3

debate and vote in the U.N. General Assembly on the resolution against “the U.S. economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba.” The assembly has approved such a motion 29 times in a row, calling on Washington to lift the sanctions.

Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez called the U.S. sanctions on Cuba “a constant hurricane” at an Oct. 19 press conference in Havana, where he released Cuba’s latest report on the devastating impact inflicted on the Cuban people.

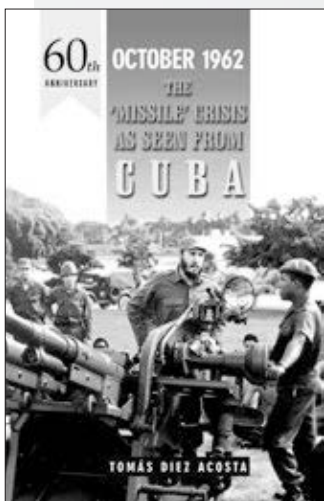
Rodríguez also welcomed the announcement by Washington that it would provide \$2 million in emergency aid to Cuba following the damage caused by Hurricane Ian. At the same time, he noted that the standing policy of the Joseph Biden administration toward Cuba is the same as that carried out by the Republican administration of Donald Trump.

This year’s report presented by Cuba points out that the U.S. economic war on Cuba “is the most comprehensive, complex and prolonged system of unilateral coercive measures ever imposed against any country in history.” It has caused \$3.8 billion of economic losses to Cuba from August 2021 to February 2022 alone, Rodríguez said.

The U.S. rulers have never forgiven Cuba’s workers and farmers for overthrowing the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista, and, under the leadership of Fidel Castro, opening the road to the first socialist revolution in the Americas.

So far there are marches and rallies planned for New York; Los Angeles; Minneapolis; Portland, Oregon; Jacksonville, Florida; Laurel, Maryland; Milwaukee; Miami; Chicago; Washington, D.C.; San Francisco; and Vancouver, British Columbia. There will also be public meetings in Montreal, London, and Manchester, England.

For more information, visit [univot-e4cuba.org](http://univot-e4cuba.org) or [themilitant.com](http://themilitant.com).



## October 1962: The ‘Missile’ Crisis as Seen From Cuba

by Tomás Diez Acosta

In October 1962, Washington pushed the world to the edge of nuclear war. Here, for the first time, the full story of that historic moment is told from the perspective of the Cuban people, whose determination to defend their sovereignty and their socialist revolution blocked U.S. plans for a military assault and saved humanity from the consequences of a nuclear holocaust. \$12

**The First and Second Declarations of Havana Manifestos of Revolutionary Struggle in the Americas**  
Adopted by the Cuban People. \$10  
[www.pathfinderpress.com](http://www.pathfinderpress.com)

## —MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

FLORIDA

Miami

The Continuity of the Socialist Workers Party in Fighting the U.S. Rulers’ Political Police and Their Attempt to Refurbish the Image of the FBI. Speaker: Steve Warshell, SWP Sat., Nov. 12, 7 p.m. Donation: \$5. 5711 NW 7th Ave., Unit B. Tel: (305) 929-8966.



# —ON THE PICKET LINE—

## Corn Nuts strikers stick together, win contract

FRESNO, Calif. — “We’re going back with our heads up high!” strike stalwart Raul Hernandez told the *Militant* here after the 40 workers at Corn Nuts — members of Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers Local 85 — voted to approve a contract and return to work. “We’re stronger,” he said. “We stood together for over two months. And we’re going back as one!”

The workers were up against food giant Hormel, which in June 2021 bought the Fresno plant, the only one that makes the popular snack. The new company bosses refused to respect the union and made each worker sign a new employment agreement, saying anyone who refused would be fired. They imposed a medical plan vastly inferior to the one they had when Kraft Heinz owned the plant. This was in the midst of the pandemic and many workers built up big medical debts.

The new contract, which was voted up Oct. 19, includes a much-improved medical plan and a \$3 an hour wage increase over four years. The union pushed back a drive by the company to start weekly work schedules on days other than Monday, an attempt to stop paying time and a half for Saturdays and double time for Sundays.

“After the vote on the contract there was a lot of happiness, of emotion,” shop steward Abel Avila told the *Militant*. “They were out to break the union and they didn’t succeed.”

“Hormel underestimated us,” he said. Only three workers, new hires, returned to work during the strike. Everyone else stayed out, including other new hires won to the union.

Hormel brought in strikebreakers to try to get the plant going. On Sept. 30 untrained and inexperienced workers lost control of the roasting process and a fire broke out. Thirteen emergency vehicles had to respond.

When asked whether the contract included keeping the scabs, BCTGM Local 85 Financial Secretary Jerry Gil said, “They’re out!”

Solidarity won by the strikers was vital. “We were especially encouraged

by the workers from Los Angeles who came to the picket line,” Avila said, referring to BCTGM workers who had struck the Jon Donaire ice cream cake plant for 113 days. “They were a real example, staying out during Christmas and all the holidays.”

Family members and other unionists joined the Corn Nuts pickets and brought water and other supplies. Teamster truckers refused to cross the picket lines. BCTGM locals around the country sent money and messages of support. The union’s International president, Anthony Shelton, and Secretary-Treasurer David Woods picketed with the strikers in September.

“These big companies with their multimillions are giving us the bare minimum,” Avila said. “That is why more workers are seeing that we need unions.”

— Betsey Stone

## Strikers demand higher pay at two refineries in France

Strikes by members of the Confederation Generale du Travail union (CGT) continue at two refineries owned by Total Energies in France Oct. 24. Workers at the Gonfreville and Feyzin refineries are demanding a 10% pay hike. Their union points to massive profits made by bosses at the oil giant as a result of surging prices since Moscow’s invasion of Ukraine.

In early October unionists at Total Energies and ExxonMobil blockaded five of the country’s eight main refineries, before President Emmanuel Macron’s government used notorious anti-labor laws to order workers back to work. Unions then reached an agreement with bosses except for CGT members at the Gonfreville and Feyzin plants.

Some 60% of oil refining capacity across the country has been shut down since mid-September due to strikes and unplanned maintenance, leading to widespread fuel shortages.

The CGT called protests in cities around France Oct. 18 to demand higher pay, galvanizing sentiment against



Members of Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers Local 85 celebrate approval of new contract, thank fellow workers who supported their strike. Contract raises wages and improves medical plan.

BCTGM

soaring prices and government disdain. The government admits over 100,000 people joined the actions.

— Terry Evans

## ‘Post-Gazette’ workers strike over medical costs, company attacks

PITTSBURGH — Pressmen, typographers, mailers and delivery drivers struck the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* Oct. 6. Reporters and other newsroom employees joined them 12 days later.

“We’re striking about our health care,” Keith Wytiaz, a 25-year *Post-Gazette* pressman, told the *Militant*. “The premium rate went up \$19 a month on the plan we were covered under and *Post-Gazette* management refused to pay it. There’s only 80 of us and the Block family,” which owns the paper and *Toledo Blade*, “is worth millions.”

“Then the company stopped our medical plan and is demanding that we pay into another one with higher maximum costs, larger copays,” he said. “That’s why we walked out.”

Teamsters and Communications Workers of America locals represent the production workers.

“We work weekends, holidays. We understand the current conditions, the nature of the newspaper industry today,” Wytiaz said. “We’re not asking for more money. But, no one here has gotten a raise in 16 years!”

The *Post-Gazette* is now being printed by the *Butler Eagle*, a non-union paper. Teamster members picket there on the nights they print.

“The company is refusing to bar-

gain,” Andrew Goldstein, a reporter and unit chair of the Newspaper Guild of Pittsburgh, a CWA affiliate, told the *Militant*. “Veteran reporters lost a week’s vacation. There is no longer a guarantee of a five-day week, and the new health care plan took a significant amount of money out of many workers’ weekly pay. The company’s much advertised 9% wage increase offer is a fraud that would amount to closer to a 1% increase in our paychecks.”

Much has been made in the media that a number of reporters and other staff crossed the picket line to help the company get out the paper. Goldstein told the *Militant* that out of the 40 who crossed the first day, at least 10 have since joined the strike. Tanisha Thomas, 25, was one of them. “I only have a month in the job,” she said. “Yesterday I came out. Now I can sleep at night.”

Union members put out an online newspaper, Union Progress, to explain the strike and build up their strike fund.

Goldstein said they’ve gotten a lot of support. The Laborers’ union brought pizza, the bricklayers brought sandwiches and News Guild locals from around the country are paying for lunches.

Strikers say: Join our picket lines! Build solidarity in your unions! And drop your subscription for the duration of the strike.

— Candace Wagner

## Sankara meeting

Continued from page 2

Three of Sankara’s brothers and sisters — Paul, Pascal and Pauline, and Sankara’s son, Philippe — participated in the meeting. “It’s important that after 35 years of fighting for justice, a victory was won in a courtroom in Burkina Faso,” said Paul Sankara. “After the 2014 uprising, when the Burkinabe people’s conviction, courage and honor drove Compaore from power, things could not be as they were before.”

In a wide-ranging discussion after the presentation, participants spoke about the importance for workers, peasants and young people across Africa and worldwide to study and learn what Thomas Sankara said and did.

“I’d like to thank the Socialist Workers Party and Pathfinder Press who worked to publish the first book in any language of this great revolutionary leader, *Thomas Sankara Speaks*,” said Madnodje Mounoubai, who chaired the meeting.

Mounoubai, a Burkinabe who lives in Silver Spring, Maryland, was Sankara’s translator when he spoke in Harlem in 1984. The speech is in the Pathfinder book under the title, “Our White House Is in Black Harlem.” The talk was screened at the meeting.

## — 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO —



November 10, 1997

HOUSTON — Over 200 people gathered Oct. 5 at the University of Houston for the Che Guevara Commemoration Conference. The keynote speaker was Angela Davis, currently a professor in feminist and African American studies at the University of California. She called for people to embrace Che Guevara by fighting for the freedom of political prisoners throughout the world.

Steve Clark, managing editor of *New Internationalist*, emphasized the relevance of Che’s ideas and example. “What Che, who is inseparable from the Cuban revolution and its leadership, teaches us is that revolution is possible,” not only in the Third World but in the United States and other imperialist centers.

“To be a revolutionary today is to be like Che — to be part of the great army of working people that represents the way forward for humanity.”



November 10, 1972

NEW YORK — When schools opened on Sept. 11, local school officials barred 90 Black students from the Tilden Houses, a public housing project in Brooklyn’s Brownsville ghetto, from registering at Meyer Levin Junior High School. The officials of District 18 claimed that the admission of these 90 students would cause overcrowding in the school and “tip its racial balance,” which is now 50 percent Black.

Instead, they proposed that the children should be sent to Arthur S. Somers Junior High School. This school is 90 percent Black and Puerto Rican. The Tilden parents refused to accept this proposal. They rented a bus, and showed up at JHS 285 every morning, demanding that their children be admitted. Finally, on Oct. 13 the Tilden parents were allowed to register their children in integrated schools in District 18.



November 10, 1947

Nov. 5 — The powerful AFL Building Trades Council of Greater New York, representing several hundred thousand workers in 38 crafts, has unanimously restated its demand for a cost-of-living escalator wage clause in contracts now under negotiations with the Building Trades Employers Association. At their last meeting, it was disclosed yesterday, the Council delegates also unanimously rejected the employers’ counter-proposals for a 2-1/2-year wage freeze and imposition of a drastic speedup.

Union negotiators had proposed the cost-of-living escalator clause to stabilize real wages by providing automatic wage increases when living costs rise.

On Oct. 17, the employers rejected the union proposal. They refused any wage increases for a majority of the 38 trades and agreed to only small increases for 15 crafts.



# Attacks on ‘right-to-life’ clinics

Continued from front page

Early in the morning of May 8, the office of Wisconsin Family Action, an anti-abortion group in Madison was firebombed. Its windows were blown out and furniture destroyed. Because no one was there at the time, there were no injuries. The threat, “If abortions aren’t safe, then you aren’t either,” was spray-painted on the side of the building.

At the CompassCare office in Buffalo, New York, June 7, vandals threw Molotov cocktails through a window. “I was shocked to see our nurses’ station totally destroyed,” one employee told the press, describing an office gutted by smoke and water damage. No one was inside at the time. The attackers left a spray-painted message: “Jane was here,” referring to Jane’s Revenge, a group that takes credit for similar assaults around the country and threatens more.

Others have vandalized churches and interrupted services. In June, police in Portland, Oregon, stood aside as 50 masked people in broad daylight broke windows and scrawled death threats on the Hinson Memorial Baptist Church. That same month, the city’s All Saints Catholic Church and School was defaced with a similar threat: “If abortions aren’t safe, neither are you.” According to the Religious Freedom Institute, 32 Catholic churches have been attacked since May.

Yet so far, there has not been a single arrest.

With no sign that this is likely to change, CompassCare sued the town of Amherst, a suburb of Buffalo, to regain possession of surveillance footage of the attack. Cops are refusing to return or make a copy of the evidence that CompassCare CEO James Harden had given them on the day of the assault. “We have a right to our own evidence,” Harden told the *Buffalo News*.

There’s been barely a mention of the assaults in the major newspapers.

Democrats have left no stone unturned in pursuit of alleged crimes by Donald Trump, from endless televised hearings into the Jan. 6, 2021, riot at the Capitol, to unleashing the FBI on the former president. But they have shown no concern about these attacks.

In July, House Democrats blocked a resolution condemning the violent assaults on pregnancy centers. “We need to shut them down all around the country,” Sen. Elizabeth Warren declared. Warren gave backhanded support to the attacks, stating, “You should not be able to torture a pregnant person like that.”

These moves by leftist thugs and Democrats endanger freedoms that working people need to be able to fight bosses’ attacks on jobs, wages and conditions that are making it harder for workers to provide for our families or to start one.

Rights to free speech and assembly are crucial for the discussions that are needed to advance access to family

planning, including contraception and safe and secure abortion. The door to debate on that question was opened up by the Supreme Court’s Dobbs decision in June that returned decision-making on the status of abortion from an unelected judiciary to the people and state governments.

Nadine Strossen, former head of the American Civil Liberties Union and a staunch supporter of abortion rights, spoke to the press about the attacks on pregnancy centers. “This is not just about protecting the rights of pro-life organizations but upholding basic standards of due process,” she said.

“Those of us who support the right to abortion have an especially great stake in the rule of law,” Strossen said. “One of these days, the power that you’re sanctioning is going to be used for the exact opposite purposes.”

Violence leveled against abortion providers over decades bears her point out.

# Iran protests grow, win support, challenge regime

Continued from front page

dress code. Few believe the official story that her death was from an underlying medical condition.

Her death unleashed pent-up anger over the oppression of women; abusive conditions faced by oppressed nationalities, like Kurds; brutal repression of those who stand in the rulers’ way; discrimination against Sunni Muslims by the Shiite-based government; the deteriorating economic conditions; and the price paid by working people who are used as cannon fodder by the bourgeois clerical regime in its reactionary military adventures across the region.

In an attempt to crush the protests, which have spread to every province and more than 100 cities, the regime has arrested thousands. It has sent the police, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and paramilitary Basij thugs to attack protesters. It’s lobbed tear gas, rubber bullets and paintballs and used live ammunition — especially in regions where oppressed minorities live — killing dozens, including at least 14 students. But it has failed to quell the actions.

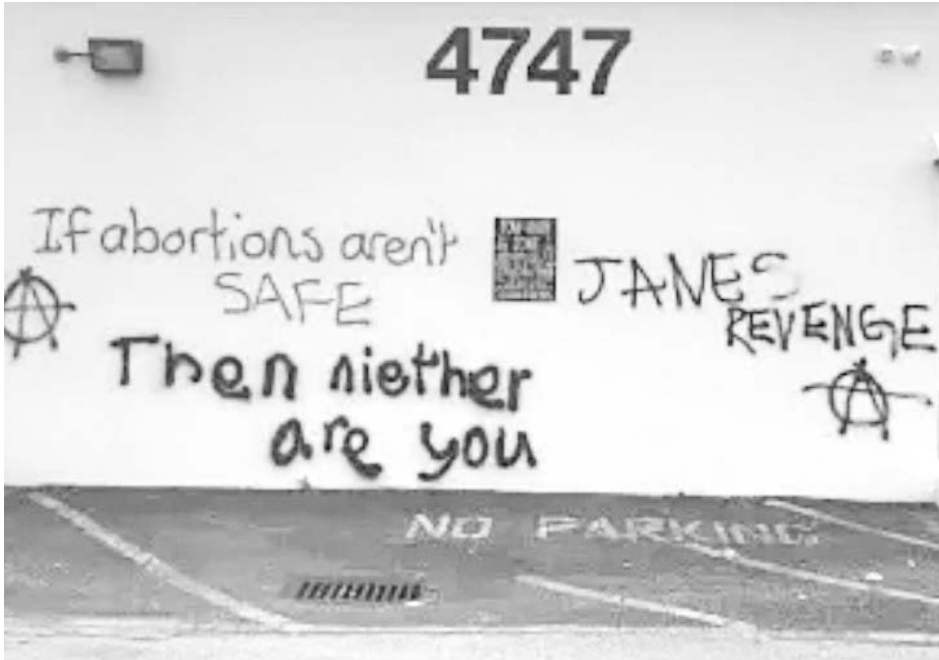
## Worker, student ties

Common bonds between students and the labor movement are especially worrisome for the regime. On Oct. 17 two students at Persian Gulf University in the port city of Bushehr were arrested after joining other students in a protest in support of oil workers on strike in the mostly Arab town of Asalouye.

On Oct. 22, workers at the Aidin Chocolate factory in Tabriz in the Azerbaijan region went on strike. Three days later workers at the Tabriz Motorsazan Tractor Manufacturing Company walked off the job, demanding wage increases and opposing speedup.

The union of workers on strike at the Haft Tappeh sugar cane mill in Khuzestan issued a statement Oct. 23 saying, “Today, the street, school and university are tied together.” The union saluted the “fighting girls and boys who shook the world with the slogan of women, life and freedom.”

Today’s actions stand on the shoulders of earlier protests. At the end of 2017 and into 2018 working people in cities, small towns and rural areas took



Dr. Grazie Pozzo Christie  
Hollywood, Florida, pregnancy center graffitied in May by leftist thugs “Jane’s Revenge,” part of surge of violent attacks, firebombing, vandalism on “right-to-life” clinics in recent months.

At least 11 people have been killed, including doctors, receptionists and other volunteers. There have been kidnappings, other physical attacks and numerous clinics have been damaged.

“What is at stake is a general principle of protection that either benefits everybody, or the alternative is that it doesn’t provide security for anybody,” Strossen said.

to the streets in the face of the bitter toll of Tehran’s wars across the Middle East and the deepening economic and social crisis. Widespread protests broke out again in 2019, drawing both men and women, and working people from all the country’s religions and nationalities.

## Students: End segregated dining

Tasnim, a pro-Islamic Republic news service, reported that the student Islamic Association gave a letter to authorities at Tehran’s Sharif University of Technology demanding that segregation in campus dining for men and women be ended. The school had just reopened after an Oct. 3 attack by Basij thugs on protesters there. Not waiting for an answer, female students entered the men’s dining hall Oct. 22. University officials then closed the dining room.

In a daring action widely covered in the Iranian press, male and female students then sat down together outside to share their meal. Tasnim claimed this was “abnormal behavior” and “a desecration.” But the *World of the Economy*, an Iranian daily, called it an “interesting” incident where the students ate “like a family.” Conflicting reports in major daily papers are one sign of rifts in capitalist ruling circles.

Students at other universities soon followed suit, including at Beheshti University in Tehran, where students pushed back an attempt by the Basij to prevent a joint meal.

At Hakim Sabzevar University in Khorasan province in northeastern Iran, the lunchroom erupted into cheers and chants of “Freedom, freedom, freedom” as women marched into the men’s section. One student wrote, “How long have we been waiting for this moment.”

Over the last week the regime has started sending Ali Bahadori Jahromi, the official spokesman of the Council of Ministers, to campuses to try to win students to back the regime. To no avail.

On Oct. 24, Bahadori was unable to finish his speech at Khaje Nasir University in Tehran over the sound of students chanting “Women, life, freedom.” Bahadori said he welcomed the slogan and called on the audience to chant it with him. The students then began chanting “Down with the dicta-

tor,” and demanded the release of a student activist who was arrested during an earlier protest. Bahadori claimed he didn’t know anything about it.

On Oct. 25, Bahadori was shouted down at Qom University. The city of Qom is home to many Shiite religious leaders. In a packed auditorium students chanted, “We don’t want murderous guests, we don’t want a corrupt system.”

Having met with small groups of pro-regime students, Bahadori cancelled further public events there.

The regime has also slandered protesters, claiming they are U.S. or Israeli agents or want to bring back the rule of the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Shah Reza Pahlavi, who was overthrown by the 1979 Iranian Revolution.

Two students in Tehran responded with a video where they held up pictures of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and the deposed shah. Then they proceeded to rip up all three.

## SPECIAL OFFER FOR MILITANT SUBSCRIBERS

# Books workers need today

About building the only kind of party worthy of the name “revolutionary”

20% OFF  
ALL OTHER  
PATHFINDER TITLES

\$8

THE TURN TO INDUSTRY  
Forging a proletarian party  
Jack Barnes

\$10

JACK BARNES  
Malcolm X  
Black Liberation  
The Road to  
Workers  
Power

\$5

Are they rich  
because  
they're smart?  
CLASS, PRIVILEGE  
AND LEARNING  
UNDER CAPITALISM  
JACK BARNES

\$12

Women in Cuba  
The making of a revolution  
within the revolution  
Viana Cifra  
America and the  
World's Future  
Yolanda Garner

\$7

LABOR, NATURE  
EVOLUTION OF HUMANITY  
JACK BARNES

ALL 5 BOOKS ABOVE FOR \$40 WITH A MILITANT SUBSCRIPTION

Teamster Rebellion / \$10

The Jewish Question / \$12

Tribunes of the People & the Trade Unions / \$7

The Clintons' Anti-Working-Class Record / \$5

Cuba and the Coming American Revolution / \$5

October 1962: 'Missile' Crisis as Seen from Cuba / 60th Anniversary Edition / \$12

TEAMSTER REBELLION

Tribunes of the People and the Trade Unions

The Jewish Question

The Clinton anti-working-class record

60 OCTOBER 1962

COMING AMERICAN REVOLUTION

SEE DISTRIBUTORS ON PAGE 8 OR VISIT PATHFINDERPRESS.COM

# Vote Socialist Workers Party, back working-class struggles!

Continued from front page

by workers who want the political space to fight to change the conditions we face.

The only party offering a class-struggle course is the Socialist Workers Party. Its candidates win solidarity for union battles, defend constitutional rights and call for the formation of a labor party based on our unions, to organize working people to take political power into our own hands.

“Using our unions to stand up to the bosses’ attacks is key for strengthening working people,” Alyson Kennedy, SWP candidate for governor in Texas, told the *Militant*. “We need to maximize the support that can be won for contract battles, like the tens of thousands of rail workers are waging, and for strikes like that of the United Mine Workers against Warrior Met Coal in Alabama.”

The Democrats say the key issue in the election is the need to stop Trump. They insist a Democratic victory is crucial to prevent a takeover by “MAGA Republicans,” who are nothing less than “semi-fascists.” At bottom, their target is the large and growing number of working people who they feel can’t be trusted with important things like politics.

The House select committee mem-



Militant/Hilda Cuzco  
Alyson Kennedy with Gerardo Sánchez, right, Socialist Workers Party candidates for governor of Texas and U.S. Congress, speak to unionists at May 1 picnic at Lake Cliff Park, Dallas.

bers are “investigating” the Jan. 6, 2021, melee at the Capitol and demand Trump submit to a deposition, which they plan to be an inquisition.

All this gets attention from like-minded liberals and the middle-class left, but does nothing to address the

needs of working people today.

While Republican candidates point to some of the problems workers face, like soaring inflation, rising crime and more, they present no road forward either.

Democrats say the other key election issue is abortion. They posture as de-

# Rail workers protest, debate road forward to defeat bosses’ attacks

Continued from front page

provisions in its notorious anti-labor Railway Labor Act.

One of the three largest rail unions, the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees, with almost 24,000 members, rejected its proposed agreement Oct. 10. If any of the 12 unions decide to strike — on a deadline currently set for Nov. 19 — the entire national rail system will shut down.

The BMW has been engaged in further negotiations since members voted the contract down. One of the biggest questions is the bosses’ refusal to grant them paid sick time to be able to seek medical help. The union’s proposal is for a modest seven days of paid sick

leave a year. But the National Carriers’ Conference Committee unceremoniously rejected that proposal Oct. 19.

“It’s totally asinine,” Peter Kennedy, a BMW national official, told CNN. “Members are very upset.”

## Rail workers reach out for support

BMW Lodge 0695 in Baltimore organized a picket at the M&T Bank Stadium there to distribute information on their fight for a contract to people going to the Oct. 23 Baltimore Ravens football game. Twenty workers came, including a couple from Philadelphia. One woman going to the game responded to a sign reading “Paid Sick Days” saying, “everyone deserves sick days, everyone!”

“Too long we have been laying back, letting other people do things for us. It’s time that working people do something. Nothing is going to change if we don’t,” William Woodring, a BMW rail grinder machine operator at CSX in Baltimore and a 20-year railroader, told the *Militant*. “One problem is the precision schedule which basically means do more, with less, and charge more for it,” he said. “They laid off 45,000 workers in the last five years, tore up tracks and cut back on crews.”

Precision Scheduled Railroad is a profit-boosting scheme started by rail bosses to slash the number of workers of all crafts as a way to cut operating costs and boost profits. “We can’t take time off because there is no slack to make up for it. We get points if we’re sick. We don’t get sick days and we need them,” said Woodring.

The bosses insist they’re justified in refusing to meet workers’ demand for more paid sick time off. “Now is not the time to introduce new demands that rekindle the prospect of a railroad strike,” the National Carriers’ Conference Committee said in a statement Oct. 19.

“The carriers’ position is misleading beyond a doubt, these are not new

demands,” Jake Forsgren, a track worker and welder in Nebraska and local chair of BMW Lodge 1320, told this *Militant* worker-correspondent Oct. 22. “The union was able to secure one additional paid personal day in the tentative national agreement — the first increase in paid time off that we have secured since 1981. That is not enough.”

Thousands of BMW members are sent hundreds of miles away from home laying and repairing trackage, and building and repairing bridges each year. In Baltimore, Woodring said, he was off to West Virginia for a week to repair track there.

In its recommended agreement, the Presidential Emergency Board, hand-picked by Joseph Biden under the Railway Labor Act, acknowledged the BMW “provided scores of anecdotes of employees who were forced to sleep in cars, skip food or eat nothing but fast food, sleep in substandard hotels with bed bugs and criminal activities taking place on premises, or sleep multiple employees in a room even during the COVID pandemic.” But they didn’t recommend much relief.

Even some of the shipping bosses who use rail transport for their freight have called on the railroads to grant workers’ demands. They get short shrift from rail bosses as well, facing ever higher prices and often having their goods held up in transit due to the shortage of workers and rail boss disdain.

“Why are we in this predicament?” Eric R. Byer, president and CEO of the National Association of Chemical Distributors, wrote in an opinion column online in SupplyChainDive Oct. 17. “Because the freight rail companies put us here.” He also pointed to Precision Scheduled Railroad, saying it “has directly led to a dwindling number of rail workers that support our critical supply chain.”

Byer says that the proposed agree-

fenders of women’s rights and claim the Supreme Court’s Dobbs ruling last June banned abortion. In fact, that ruling correctly held that Roe v. Wade, the 1973 case that decriminalized abortion, had no basis in the Constitution. The ruling didn’t ban a single abortion. It sent the issue back to the people and their state representatives to be argued out.

Biden implored people Oct. 18 to elect enough Democrats so he can enact a Women’s Health Protection Act, an election ploy and a danger to the fight for women’s emancipation. The act would cut off the badly needed debate to win a solid majority among working people, and bar states from legislating on abortion.

Decriminalization of abortion can only be won as part of a broader working-class fight against the assaults of the bosses and their government. Those battles can make gains that will help young workers to be able to start families and provide for them, make the burden of home chores the responsibility of society, and advance construction and availability of health care and family planning centers that provide access to contraception and abortion.

Continued on page 9

ment “does not include any significant measures to improve quality of life issues. Rail workers today have zero time allotted to them by their rail employers for sick leave.

“Now is not the time,” he concludes, “to deny reasonable benefits for a labor community that has been decimated by losses in recent years.”

## The fight continues

The two unions whose members operate the trains and organize the majority of rail workers — over 62,000 conductors and engineers — the Sheet Metal, Airline, Rail and Transportation Workers Transportation Division (SMART-TD) and the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers are expected to announce the results of their contract votes Nov. 17.

The rail bosses have refused to discuss key questions these workers face of crew size, attendance policies and safety in the recent negotiations. They continue to push to cut crews down — to one-person “crews” on the road. Many operations today in rail yards are already done by one worker alone, not even on the train but using a remote-control device on the ground.

Rail workers across the board are angry about the way their jobs have been transformed over years, from ones they were proud to work to ones where they find it almost impossible to work safely or get a regular schedule that allows time for family and friends, as well as union and political activity.

However the votes on the contracts turn out, railroad workers’ battles against the conditions imposed by the bosses and capitalist for-profit system will continue.

Joe Swanson is a retired rail worker and member of SMART-TD. Arrin Hawkins in Washington, D.C., and Chris Hoeppeppner in Philadelphia contributed to this article.



# Working class taking power is road to meaningful learning

The French edition of *Are They Rich Because They're Smart? Class, Privilege, and Learning Under Capitalism* by Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, is one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for November. It explains how class inequalities are sharpening today amid the deepening global capitalist crisis. Below is an excerpt from the chapter "Capitalism, the Working Class, and the Transformation of Learning." Copyright © 2016 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

## BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY JACK BARNES

These are class questions, not questions of an individual's level of schooling. The purpose of education in class society is not to educate. The purpose of education is to give "the educated" a stake in thinking they are going to be different — better off, more "white collar" — than other people who work all their lives. In the process, the rulers hope to make those who manage to get a college degree more dependable supporters of the status quo. They want you to be comfortable supervising, "orienting," and testing workers — directly and indirectly. They want to be able to count on you as a stable supporter of the capitalist system. It is not education; it is confusion and corruption.



Institute of Cuban History  
After Cuba's workers and peasants came to power, Che Guevara, center, led in introducing voluntary labor as the socialist revolution deepened. That way, he said, a worker can see himself not as a commodity, but can "understand his full stature as a human being."

Entire social layers — lawyers and other so-called professionals — receive very high incomes just because they can hang a piece of paper on the wall, a piece of paper kept scarce by the action of the state. Due to the corner they hold on these functions in the class structure and pecking order of capitalist society, these professional and other middle layers collect a "rent," a payoff, from the bourgeoisie. They live off a portion of the fruits of the exploitation of workers, working farmers, and other toiling producers.

That's another function of education under capitalism. It gives certain privileged social layers a *license* to a higher income — a *license* to a slice of the surplus value workers create through our labor. The surplus value we create is much greater than the wages capitalists pay us. In addition to the shares of surplus value the owners of industrial, banking, commercial, and land-owning capital divvy up among themselves (through competition) in the form of profits, interest, and rent, they also pay out part of this wealth to these layers of professionals, managers, and supervisory personnel.

In the big majority of cases, these individuals contribute nothing to production. But they *do* help the propertied ruling families maintain and reproduce the class relations, privilege, and domination necessary for bourgeois rule.

So the relationship between educa-

tion and income in capitalist society has nothing to do with college graduates knowing more, let alone making a greater contribution to human welfare or creativity (or necessarily even a greater direct contribution to capitalist wealth, for that matter). Instead, it is a small price the propertied rulers pay for a middle class that helps them maintain social stability, hold off working-class demands, and rationalize the polarizing social consequences of the relations of production under capitalism. ...

Until society is reorganized so that education is a human activity from the time we are very young until the time we die, there will be no education worthy of working, creating humanity. There will only be the pretensions to education or to technical expertise of a small group of people. That is the historical truth. ...

Work should be the way Che Guevara talked and wrote about it during the early years of the Cuban Revolution — and what Fidel Castro and Che helped *mobilize and lead* as revolutionary organizers of that working-class government and communist party. Factories and other workplaces should be organized to promote continual requalification and ongoing education. In order to do that, "work must acquire a new status," Che wrote in 1965 in *Socialism and Man in Cuba*.

Along that road, Che said, a worker "starts to see himself reflected in his

work and to understand his full stature as a human being through the object created, through the work accomplished. Work no longer entails surrendering a part of his being in the form of labor power sold, which no longer belongs to him. ...

"We are doing everything possible to give work this new status of social duty," he wrote, "and to link it on the one side with the development of technology, which will create the conditions for greater freedom, and on the other side with voluntary work based on the Marxist appreciation that man truly reaches his full human condition when he produces without being compelled by physical necessity to sell himself as a commodity." ...

There is *no universal education* under capitalism; there is no such thing as education "for all." There is only "education" for the working class, and a completely different kind of "education" for the small propertied minority.

If we do not explain education under capitalism as a class question ... if we do not present working-class schooling as the social destruction of human solidarity, as the organization of a society based on class differentiation, where human beings late in their teens become units of production in the minds of personnel managers and social planners; if we do not point to the fundamental issue of truly universal, lifetime learning — if we cannot explain education this way, then we cannot explain it at all.

But understood and explained correctly, there is no more important question for communists. Learning as a lifetime experience — I cannot think of a better reason to make a socialist revolution. What better reason to get rid of the capitalist state and use the workers state to begin transforming humanity, to begin building human solidarity? And we have the living example of the Cuban Revolution to show how it's possible to start down that road. ...

Explaining the communist approach to learning is part of preparing the working class for the greatest of all battles in the years ahead — the battle to throw off the self-image the rulers teach us, and to recognize that we are capable of taking power and organizing society, as we collectively educate ourselves and learn the exploiters in the process.

**November**  
**BOOKS OF THE MONTH**

**Pathfinder**  
**Readers Club**  
**Specials**

**Sont-ils riches parce qu'ils sont intelligents? Classe, privilège et apprentissage sous le capitalisme**  
(Are They Rich Because They're Smart?)  
JACK BARNES  
Learning as a lifetime experience — What better reason to make a socialist revolution?  
**\$10. Special price \$7**

**The Jewish Question**  
A Marxist Interpretation  
ABRAM LEON  
**\$17. Special price \$12**

**Red Zone**  
Cuba and the Battle Against Ebola in West Africa  
ENRIQUE UBIETA  
**\$17. Special price \$12**

**The Last Year of Malcolm X**  
GEORGE BREITMAN  
**\$15. Special price \$10.50**

**Speeches for Socialism**  
JAMES P. CANNON  
**\$20. Special price \$14**

**Humanism and Socialism**  
GEORGE NOVACK  
**\$12. Special price \$8.50**

**Join the Pathfinder Readers Club for \$10 and receive discounts all year long**

ORDER ONLINE AT  
**PATHFINDERPRESS.COM**  
OFFER GOOD UNTIL November 30

## IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP

Where to find distributors of the *Militant*, *New International*, and a full display of Pathfinder books.

### UNITED STATES

**CALIFORNIA:** **Oakland:** 675 Hegenberger Road, Suite 250. Zip: 94621. Tel: (510) 686-1351. Email: swpoak@sbcglobal.net **Los Angeles:** 2826 S. Vermont. Suite 1. Zip: 90007. Tel: (323) 643-4968. Email: swpla@att.net

**FLORIDA:** **Miami:** 5711 NW 7th Ave. Unit B. Zip: 33142. Tel: (305) 929-8966. Email: swpmiami@icloud.com

**GEORGIA:** **Atlanta:** 777 Cleveland Ave. SW Suite 103. Zip: 30315. Tel: (678) 528-7828. Email: swpatlanta@fastmail.com

**ILLINOIS:** **Chicago:** 1858 W. Cermak Road, 2nd floor. Zip: 60608. Tel: (312) 792-6160. Email: SWPChicago@fastmail.fm

**MINNESOTA:** **Minneapolis:** 2401 1/2 Central Ave. NE, Unit B. Zip: 55418. Tel: (612) 271-1930. Email: swpminneapolis@gmail.com

**NEBRASKA:** **Lincoln:** P.O. Box 6811.

Zip: 68506. Tel: (402) 217-4906. Email: swplincoln@gmail.com

**NEW JERSEY:** 3600 Bergenline, Suite 205B, Union City. Zip: 07087. Tel: (551) 240-1512. swpnewjersey@gmail.com

**NEW YORK:** **New York:** 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor. Zip: 10018. Tel: (646) 434-8117. Email: newyorkswp@gmail.com

**OHIO:** **Cincinnati:** 2300 Montana Ave., Suite 230. Tel: Zip: 45211. (513) 837-1038. Email: swpcincinnati@gmail.com

**PENNSYLVANIA:** **Philadelphia:** 2824 Cottman Ave., Suite 16. Zip: 19149. Tel: (215) 708-1270. Email: philaswp@verizon.net **Pittsburgh:** 5907 Penn Ave., Suite 313. Zip: 15206. Tel: (412) 610-2402. Email: swppittsburgh@gmail.com

**TEXAS:** **Dallas-Fort Worth:** 6815 Manhattan Blvd., Suite 108 Fort Worth. Zip: 76120. Tel: (817) 899-6720. Email: dfswp@gmail.com

**WASHINGTON, D.C.:** 7603 Georgia Ave. NW, Suite 300. Zip: 20012. Tel: (202) 536-5080. Email: swp.washingtondc@verizon.net

**WASHINGTON:** **Seattle:** 650 S. Orcas St., #120 Zip: 98108. Tel: (206) 323-1755. Email: swpseattle@gmail.com

### AUSTRALIA

**Sydney:** Suite 2, First floor, 275 George St., Liverpool. Postal Address: P.O. Box 73 Campsie, NSW 2194. Tel: (61) 435-995-604. Email: cl\_australia@optusnet.com.au

### CANADA

**QUEBEC:** **Montreal:** 7107 St. Denis #204 H2S 2S5. Tel: (514) 272-5840. Email: clcmmontreal@fastmail.com

### FRANCE

**Paris:** BP 10130, 75723 Paris Cedex 15. Email: militant.paris@gmail.com

### UNITED KINGDOM

**ENGLAND:** **London:** 5 Norman Road (first floor). Seven Sisters. Post code: N15 4ND. Tel: 020-3538 8900. Email: cllondon@fastmail.fm **Manchester:** 329, Royal Exchange Buildings, 3 Old Bank St. Post code: M2 7PE. Tel: (0161) 312-8119. Email: clmanchr@gmail.com



# —SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY STATEMENT—

## Back Ukraine people’s fight for sovereignty

*Statement by John Studer, Socialist Workers Party national campaign director, issued Oct. 26. Studer made three reporting trips to Ukraine in 2014 and 2015.*

Socialist Workers Party candidates present an independent working-class foreign policy that starts from the common class interests of working people worldwide against those of the bosses and their governments.

We unconditionally back the Ukrainian people’s courageous fight to defend their country’s independence. We demand an immediate end to Moscow’s inhuman bombardment of Ukraine’s cities and total withdrawal *now!* Russian President Vladimir Putin’s KGB police-state regime is intent on crushing the Ukrainian people, eradicating their country and reimposing the prison house of nations that existed under the czars, with him on top.

But as Moscow’s battlefield defeats mount, Russian soldiers are becoming increasingly demoralized and disillusioned, and opponents of Putin’s war inside Russia are becoming more outspoken. In the face of repression, their determination is inspiring. The fraternization and unity of working people in Russia and Ukraine will be crucial to defeating the invasion.

But Washington’s biting sanctions are an obstacle to building solidarity between working people in Russia and Ukraine, hitting above all on Russian working people and aggravating the crisis they already face.

Workers and farmers in Ukraine are at the center

of resistance to Moscow’s invasion. But they also face President Volodymyr Zelensky’s capitalist government. It is using martial law to ban strikes, protests and political parties, tear up union contracts and aid the bosses’ drive to profit at workers’ expense.

Under the banner of protecting “democracy” and “freedom,” Democrats and Republicans wield Washington’s power to defend the interests of the U.S. capitalists. The deployment of Washington’s military worldwide serves those class interests. Their foreign policy everywhere is an extension of capitalists’ assaults on jobs, wages, unions and living conditions at home, and of their attacks on constitutional freedoms. We demand the U.S. rulers get all their troops and nuclear weaponry out of Europe.

The consequences for workers of Moscow’s launch of the first full-scale war in Europe in decades are enormous. Capitalist rulers everywhere are scurrying to reassess their alliances and how best to protect their national interests, spurring a new arms race. They show that capitalism inevitably means more wars in which our class will be used as cannon fodder. Above all, it shines a spotlight on the necessity of working people taking political power out of their hands.

That is what the Cuban Revolution shows is possible. In their millions working people overthrew the U.S.-backed Fulgencio Batista dictatorship and replaced capitalist rule with a workers and farmers government, forging a communist leadership in the process. Socialist revolution in the U.S. is the road to advancing a future for all humanity.

## Vote SWP, back working-class struggles!

**Continued from page 7**

Neither of the bosses’ parties presents any road against today’s capitalist crisis and its raging inflation. And now production and trade are contracting, here and worldwide. Our jobs are threatened.

Working people also face a deep social crisis from the crushing realities of capitalism. Suicide rates rose 4% last year. Drug use, alcoholism and gambling addiction are taking a bigger toll on working people.

“Our unions need to fight for a sliding scale of hours and wages. Thirty-hour workweeks with no cut in pay to prevent layoffs. Cost-of-living adjustments in every contract, Social Security and all benefits, so when prices rise our wages go up automatically to match,” Kennedy said. “Today’s union battles point a way forward.”

### Dealing with anti-social behavior

Republicans say Democrats are responsible for rising crime, pointing to calls made by Biden in 2020 to “defund the police.”

“When working people succeed in taking power from the ruling class we’ll replace their brutal cops with proven fighters from our own ranks,” Kennedy said. “Today the bosses need cops — and the entire U.S. ‘justice’ system, with its courts, prisons and ex-

ecutioners — to defend their property and control us. They can’t be ‘defunded’ or abolished under capitalist rule. Efforts to do so can leave people defenseless.”

Crime is a byproduct of a social system based on the brutal exploitation of the toiling majority by the ruling capitalist families and the dog-eat-dog values and deadly violence it breeds.

Both bosses’ parties view workers as a criminal class. They see in our struggles today a future when their rule is challenged and increasingly they fear us.

Crime falls during mass struggles when working-class solidarity comes to the fore and working people feel they have something to fight for. That was true during the rise of the industrial unions in the 1930s and the civil rights movement that uprooted Jim Crow segregation.

At the top of the capitalist rulers’ “criminal justice” team is the FBI, which is tasked with targeting anyone who threatens their rule. The Democrats use the FBI to do their dirty work, from its role in promoting the false charge that Trump was a tool of Moscow in 2016 to its armed raid on his Mar-a-Lago home this summer. Their aim is to refurbish the reputation of their political police so it can be used against the working class and its vanguard in battles to come.

Vote Socialist Workers Party Nov. 8!

## —LETTERS—

### ‘Send me your newspaper’

I ran across one of your newspapers that was left in a cell after I moved in. It wasn’t the full edition, but I loved the articles on Ukraine and the way you support the overworked and underpaid. Please send me your newspaper. Thank you for all you do!

*A prisoner  
Florida*

### Alone in the storm

Thank you for the article comparing Hurricane Ian’s effects on the working people of Cuba and the U.S.

Here in Punta Gorda, Florida, my husband, my dog and I huddled in a closet for eight hours while the

worst of the storm blew. We had an emergency radio with us but were getting spotty reception.

We had little chance of storm surge in our area, but as Ian advanced to near Category 5 wind power that lasted hours we realized too late we should have evacuated.

Our house sustained minimal damage but we were without power for a week and potable water for 10 days. We still have not been reconnected to reliable internet usage (that’s why I’m using snail mail to report to you).

The damage to our community — traffic lights gone, stores closed, buildings blown apart and roofs gone or severely damaged

on residential homes. Downed trees and rubble everywhere.

All in all, the lack of communication to us has been the biggest challenge. We never heard officially exactly what was going on. Word of mouth from neighbors is our best connection. We were and remain alone.

*Mary Imo-Stike  
Punta Gorda, Florida*

**The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of interest to working people. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.**

## Ukraine pushes back

**Continued from front page**

outs in more than 10 regions.

The bombing hasn’t alleviated the precarious position of Russian forces in Kherson. Occupation authorities are in disarray as they strip the city of essential equipment and leave. Tens of thousands of residents, including hospital patients, have been evacuated across the Dnipro River by Moscow. The Ukrainian government says this is a forced deportation of civilians, alongside Moscow’s “disappearance” of prisoners of war. Substantial protests against Moscow’s occupation of Kherson took place in May.

Moscow says it’s sending reinforcements, including recently mobilized soldiers, to Kherson.

“We were outraged when he was sent to Ukraine with no training,” Svetlana Puchkova told the *Moscow Times* about her brother-in-law, Igor. He was drafted from Minusinsk, Siberia, last month and sent to southern Ukraine where he was killed. His only previous brief military experience had been in 2015.

Moscow is also deploying more troops and aircraft to bases in Belarus on Ukraine’s northern border, posing the danger of another front opening up. But Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko, a Putin ally, fears that involvement in the Kremlin’s failing war would expand and deepen opposition among working people to his regime. Addressing the Ukrainian government, he said, “If you do not want to fight with us, then we will not. There will be no war.”

### Workers volunteer in war effort

Working people in Ukraine have been at the center of resistance to the invasion ever since their initiatives backing the Ukrainian army led to the defeat of Moscow’s drive to take Kyiv. Tens of thousands have trained to fight while others have formed volunteer networks to provide aid and reconstruction.

Chernihiv, a city northeast of Kyiv, was surrounded and bombarded by Russian forces in March during their failed attempt take the capital. A large pizzeria there was transformed by hundreds of volunteers from all walks of life. They used it to feed up to 22,000 people daily, delivering food free to the army, emergency services, hospitals and city residents. Later this included people in 190 nearby villages that had been under occupation. Volunteers also worked to repair homes damaged by Russian bombing.

In the first major union action since Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky’s government banned strikes, underground miners at Novovolynsk Mine No. 9 in the west of the country waged a monthlong strike. They won a round Oct. 6 when the energy ministry dismissed a new mine manager whose appointment was opposed by the union. He was part of a layer of corrupt state officials trying to advance embezzlement schemes, like illegally diverting sales of coal.

Mykhailo Volynets, chair of the Independent Trade Union of Ukrainian Miners, told OpenDemocracy Oct. 21 that this “will happen again ... these corrupt renegades have not calmed down.” And workers are demanding their unpaid August wages.

Putin’s draft deepened alarm over the war as husbands, fathers and sons have been sent to the front. In a six-minute video, Mikhail Ashichev, a mechanic from Podporozhye, Leningrad, explains why he refuses to be part of Moscow’s war. “The people around me are terrified due to mobilization, because now this affects everyone,” he says. He would rather go to jail than fight in Ukraine, because there “parents are burying their children.”

“I’m not a pacifist,” he explained. “If a country was trying to occupy my Motherland, or commit aggression against Russia,” he would sign up. The government, he says, is “used to treating people like objects. ... I get the feeling these people are terrified of losing control. They’re used to controlling everything.”

Protests against the war continue in Russia. Art teachers in Cheboksary, the capital of the Chuvash Republic, had asked students to make drawings on the theme “No to the war,” and send them to Russian soldiers. The Chuvash people are an ethnic minority long subject to discrimination at the hands of Moscow.

**The ‘Militant’ Prisoners’ Fund** makes it possible to send prisoners reduced rate subscriptions. Send a check or money order payable to the Militant earmarked “Prisoners’ Fund” to 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018 or donate online at: [www.themilitant.com](http://www.themilitant.com)